

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Notice to Mariners is published by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA), under the authority of Department of Defense Directive 5105.40, to advise mariners of important matters affecting navigational safety, including new hydrographic discoveries, changes in channels and navigational aids, etc. (U.S. Code Title 10, Sec. 442 and Title 44, Sec. 1336 refer). Nothing in the arrangement of information implies endorsement or acceptance by NIMA in matters affecting the status and boundaries of States and territories. The Notice to Mariners presents corrective information affecting charts, NIMA Hydrographic Products Catalog, Coast Pilots, Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides, USCG Light Lists, NIMA List of Lights, Radio Navigational Aids and other products produced by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, National Ocean Service and U.S. Coast Guard.

Information for the Notice to Mariners is contributed by the following Agencies: National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) (Department of Defense) for waters outside the territorial limits of the United States; National Ocean Service (NOS) (Department of Commerce), which is charged with the surveys and charting of the coasts and harbors of the United States and its territories; the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (Department of Homeland Security), which is responsible for the safety of life at sea and the establishment and operation of aids to navigation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Department of Defense), which is charged with the improvement of rivers and harbors of the United States. In addition, important contributions are made by foreign hydrographic offices and cooperating observers of all nationalities.

For further information concerning NIMA hydrographic products and services, including the Maritime Safety Information Website, users may contact:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>DSN</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Maritime Safety Information Division	301-227-5006	287-5006	301-227-5745
World-Wide Navigational Warning Service	301-227-3147	287-3147	301-227-3731
Fleet Liaison Officer	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-4211
Maritime Safety Information Website	301-227-3296	287-3296	301-227-4211
Notice to Mariners: Regions 1 and 2	301-227-3122	287-3122	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 3, 4, 5	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 6 thru 9	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides	301-227-3183	287-3183	301-227-3174
Navigation Science Publications	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-3731
Distribution Issues	301-227-7652	287-7652	301-227-4211

The Maritime Safety Information Website can be accessed directly at (<http://pollux.nss.nima.mil>). For your convenience NIMA provides three e-mail addresses. For information affecting Notice to Mariners use [NavNotices@nima.mil](mailto:NavNotices@nima.mil), for information affecting Sailing Directions and all other navigational publications use [SDPUBS@nima.mil](mailto:SDPUBS@nima.mil), for information concerning the Maritime Safety Information Website, use [webmaster\\_nss@nima.mil](mailto:webmaster_nss@nima.mil).

Mariners are requested to notify NIMA of discrepancies in charts and publications, using the Marine Information Report and Suggestion Sheet at the back of this Notice to Mariners. This form should also be used to report permanent changes, additions, or deletions from charted or published information. Reports which constitute an immediate hazard to navigation should be sent to the nearest NAVAREA Coordinator via coast radio stations. All reports are greatly appreciated.

**Cover Photo:** The **USS KEARSARGE (LHD-3)** is the third in a series of seven *WASP* class multipurpose amphibious assault ships built by Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, MS. **KEARSARGE** is the fourth ship to bear this name, with an historical lineage that dates back to the Civil War. Hers is one of only two names that Congress has mandated the US Navy will always have a ship named. Her principal mission is to embark, deploy, land and support a Marine landing force. The ship is specifically designed to accommodate Air Cushion Landing Craft (LCAC) for fast troop movement over the beach, and AV-8B Harrier aircraft to provide close-in air support for the assault force. **KEARSARGE** can also carry as many as 26 Navy/USMC helicopters for troop movement, air support and Search and Rescue Operations. The ship's extensive medical facilities include six fully-equipped operating rooms and a 600-bed hospital for combat support, as well as for humanitarian missions during peacetime. Commissioned 16 October 1993, the **KEARSARGE** is 844 feet in length, has a beam of 110 feet, a draft of 28 feet and can accommodate a crew of 1,009 sailors and 73 officers. During her recent deployment in support of Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom, the **KEARSARGE** served as the flagship for Commander, Amphibious Task Force EAST, and carried more than 1,700 Marines from the Second Marine Expeditionary Brigade to the Northern Arabian Gulf. The homeport of the **KEARSARGE** is Norfolk, Virginia.